



# *Inside Ag*

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### **Changes to the Colorado Egg Law**



The Colorado Egg Law was first enacted in 1933. This law ensures that the eggs sold to Colorado consumers are wholesome, properly graded, and labeled. The Department of Agriculture's Division of Inspection and Consumer Services inspects eggs at retail and wholesale locations.

The Colorado Egg Law underwent a sunset review by the Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA) during 2008. Sunset reviews are done on a regular basis for every state program that issues licenses to determine if the law is still serving an important purpose for the people of Colorado.

DORA'S review of the Egg Program resulted in a report, [2008 Sunset Review: Colorado Egg Law](#), which was presented to the 2009 Legislature. The report recommended continuation of the Egg Law until 2020, at which time another Sunset review will be conducted. The report also recommended other amendments to increase the effectiveness of the Egg Law. This amendment, [SB 09-127](#), was passed by the Colorado General Assembly, signed by Governor Ritter during the 2009 Legislative Session, and becomes effective on July 1, 2009.

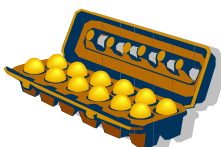
A major change to the Egg Law is the elimination of wholesale and retail licenses and the establishment of a single "egg dealer" license. The Commissioner of Agriculture will establish dealer license classes based on the average number of cases of eggs sold per week in rule. In the past, retail license classes were based on gross sales of all items in a store, except gasoline, and wholesale license classes were based on the number of cases of eggs sold per week.

Another change will allow small egg producers, currently exempt from the licensing requirements, to voluntarily obtain a producer/dealer license. The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) requires that eggs offered for sale to the public be obtained from an "approved source." The only exemption from this requirement is for eggs sold by producers from a farm stand on their property. This exemption does not apply to eggs sold at farmer's markets, restaurants, retail stores, and wholesale outlets. This license will allow small producers to comply with CDPHE requirements for the sale of eggs at farmers markets.

Other law changes include the following:

- removal of the license expiration date from statute
- authorization for the Commissioner to establish:
  - license expiration date
  - late license renewal fees
  - rules regarding the licensing of egg dealers
  - rules for processing and transportation of eggs
- repeal of obsolete language and definitions in the statute

Go to the Department's [Egg Program](#) website to get more information, or call 303-477-0093.



*Fun Fact: There is about one laying hen for each person in Colorado, and each hen will lay about 5 eggs per week.*